

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144179

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, MZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN

REF: STATE 139160

1. THERE FOLLOWS FOR YOUR COMMENT, DRAFT OF COUNTRY
EVALUATION PLAN FOR MOZAMBIQUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL
INSTRUCTIONS. COMMENTS AND/OR CHANGES MOST WELCOME.
PLEASE RESPOND BY JUNE 28. SLUG FOR AF ONLY.

2. A. CONDITIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON:
TORTURE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE GENERALLY PRACTICED OR
COUNTENANCED AND THERE HAVE BEEN FEW REPORTS OF CRUEL,
INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT. ARBITRARY DETENTION
WITHOUT TRIAL IS PRACTICED. AN ACCUSED MAY FIND
DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL HEARING
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IF THE CHARGE RELATES TO QUESTIONS OF STATE SECURITY.
OWING TO A LACK OF PERSONNEL AND EXPERIENCE, THE
OPERATION OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS ERRATIC. THE MOZAMBIQUE
CONSTITUTION ASSURES INDIVIDUALS OF THE INVIOABILITY
OF THEIR DOMICILES EXCEPT IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES.

2. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES:

THE ONE-PARTY MOZAMBIQUE STATE SHOWS LITTLE TOLERANCE FOR WHAT IT VIEWS AS POLITICAL DISSIDENCE. OPEN POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT CONDONED AND THOSE HOLDING DIFFERING VIEWS ARE DENIED ACCESS TO THE STATE-CONTROLLED MEDIA. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION, HAS BEEN TEMPERED BY REPRESSION OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES AND SOME PROSELYTIZING SECTS. CHURCHES ARE PROHIBITED FROM OPERATING SCHOOLS OR HOSPITALS. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION HAS BEEN GREATLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. THE RIGHT OF FREE EMIGRATION HAS BEEN MAINTAINED FOR NON-CITIZENS, ALTHOUGH TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON THE REMOVAL OF MONEY AND PROPERTY EXIST. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY EXISTS EXCEPT FOR TRAVEL IN BORDER AREAS WITH RHODESIA. SOME RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON FOREIGN TRAVEL.

3. RECENT TRENDS IN GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO FULFILLMENT OF BASIC NEEDS:

THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE DESIRES TO ESTABLISH AND CARRY OUT POLICIES WHICH WOULD FULFILL BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION. IN PRACTICE HOWEVER, THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE NEEDS HAS BEEN VERY UNEVEN. AS A RESULT OF THE WAR ON ITS BORDER, THE SEVERING OF TRANSPORTATION LINKS WITH RHODESIA, THE

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MASS EXODUS OF PORTUGUESE, AND THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL, THERE ARE SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. FOOD SHORTAGES ARE COMMONPLACE, HEALTH CARE HAS DETERIORATED AS THE RESULT OF NATIONALIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN CURTAILED IN AN ATTEMPT TO SUPPLY MANPOWER NEEDS.

CORRUPTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. WHERE IT IS DISCOVERED STRONG ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST THOSE THOUGHT TO BE DIVERTING RESOURCES.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS MEASURES ARE GENERALLY ARTICULATED AS GOVERNMENT POLICY, BUT VIOLATIONS ARE OFTEN CONDONED OR JUSTIFIED ON SECURITY GROUNDS.

5. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO ALLOW OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

B. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DISLOCATION ENGENDERED

IN ESTABLISHING A NEW GOVERNMENT AND A "NEW SOCIETY"
IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING
FROM ONGOING HOSTILITY ON ITS BORDERS, DO NOT MAKE THE
ONE-PARTY MOZAMBIKAN STATE VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO ATTEMPTS
TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITION BY OUTSIDERS.
EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE
VIEWED WITH SUSPICION AND HOSTILITY. THE GOVERNMENT
HAS A COMMITMENT TO MARXIST IDEOLOGY AND REMAINS
UNHAPPY WITH PAST US POLICY WHICH WAS VIEWED AS SUPPORTIVE
OF PORTUGUESE COLONIAL DOMINATION. THE UNITED STATES
COULD BE HELPFUL IN TERMS OF CATEGORY A3, BY OFFERING
FOOD ASSISTANCE TO HELP OVERCOME CHRONIC SHORTAGES
IN SOME BASIC COMMODITIES.

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2. (FOR EMBASSY DESCRIPTION)

3. (FOR EMBASSY EVALUATION)

4. A. GIVEN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION
IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND THE EXTREMELY LIMITED U.S. LEVERAGE,
U.S. ACTION OTHER THAN FOOD ASSISTANCE WOULD BE
INADVISABLE. FOOD ASSISTANCE COULD BE HELPFUL
TO U.S. INTERESTS, HOWEVER, AND MIGHT HELP TO ESTABLISH
CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES
WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL.

B. NOT APPLICABLE

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